

P. Sweeney, Louise  
ORGI No-Oil, Inc.  
CIA 3.01.7  
P-Rowan, Ford  
CIA 2.03 (Computer)

Colby, Wiesner due to testify

# U.S. covert role probed in 'spying' technology

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One March night in 1973, No-Oil, Inc., a nonprofit organization opposed to any oil drilling in Pacific Palisades, California, held a third birthday party with an ominous snapper at the end.

First came the business meeting with over 600 people attending, including some of the California legislators who support No-Oil. (Democratic U.S. Sens. John V. Tunney and Alan Cranston and Rep. Paul N. McCloskey (R), and Rep. Thomas M. Rees (D) are honorary members.) When the president of No-Oil announced that the business meeting was over, he added that anyone who was a friend of Occidental Petroleum could leave before the party, celebrating the state Supreme Court's decision to halt Occidental's operations in the area until the entire matter was resolved in the courts.

Two No-Oil members leaving to retrieve something from their car outside noticed a middle-aged man who had been inside talking to the driver of a Lincoln Continental with a New York license plate. They checked out the license through the New York City Police Department, which said it was not registered; it was one of a series of licenses not requiring registration, belonging to a VIP, the FBI, or CIA. Further checks revealed that the license was registered to a dummy corporation, which did not exist at the address given.

This and a similar experience led No-Oil to ask Senator Tunney's office — in view of recent news stories about citizen surveillance — if they had been on former President Richard M. Nixon's "enemies" list or if they are now on any governmental surveillance list. Senator Tunney has files full of letters from other concerned citizens worried about government surveillance. On June 23, he began hearings on one aspect of the problem, the government's covert role in developing surveillance technology to spy on Americans.

To do it he is melding two Tunney committees in unique joint hearings: his judiciary subcommittee on constitutional rights and his commerce subcommittee on science and technology.

Two witnesses expected to testify at the hearings are CIA director William E. Colby and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) president Jerome Wiesner. It is MIT which allegedly has transmitted and copied in conjunction with a Defense Department computer network, thousands of surveillance files compiled by the U.S. Army on U.S. citizens and groups it considered dissident in the '60s.

The Defense Department has agreed under Senate pressure to end the surveillance and destroy files, but NBC correspondent Ford Rowan, in an early June investigative series on the use of computerized surveillance systems, reported that the files also had been transferred by computer to the National Security Agency and the CIA in addition to the MIT operation.